369 villages. Town and citydwellers -- perhaps 20% of China's population -- kept their ties with their native villages. returned there whenever possible and many saw commercial activity in the town only as means to the acquisition of sufficient wealth to buy farming land and return to the village.[11] The town population, then. was [162] mostly made up of artisans and peasants plus a small number of landlords retired officials county functionaries and established merchant • [634] families. The county seats (hsien capitals) were the centers for tax collection and administration of the surrounding farm-villages and also served as market towns where the peasant might sell his crop and purchase the manufactured goods he could not produce.

369 Town life for the average artisan was as
511 meager as that of his relatives in the village. Long hours hard work low pay. few holidays were the lot of most and living conditions were generally poorer and more crowded than those [146] in the villages. Proprietors of many shops required their employees to live on the premises so that they seldom visited their families. The [262] diet of the town dweller was as poor as that of the poor farmer -- mostly cereals vegetables, and some condiments and meat and fruit on
369 holidays only. Brief holidays were allowed at
527 the New Year the Ch'ing-ming festival. the mid-Autumn festival, and the Dragon Boat festival. On these occasions, townspeople usually tried to return to their villages; if this was impossible they enjoyed such delicacies as they could afford and strolled the streets, perhaps

11. Cf. Cressey. Land of the 500 Million, pp. 18-19. The 1953 Communist census credits cities and towns (undefined) with 13.26% of the Mainland population. Ibid., p. 18. [p.216]

634 Each county can also be divided into district to which agents are sent with the approval of the provincial People's council. The same procedure can be applied to a municipality, which has need of agents to look after the administration of each street.

The nature and function of local government from the municipality down to the county and hsiang level, has changed radically since the beginning of the Communist regime. Popular organizations make it possible to keep the individual under closer surveillance than was possible in the past.

Under the early Republic and Kuomintang, a county was run by a single person called the magistrate, at times assisted by a few department heads of his own choosing. Now, the county People's council, according to the Communist Constitution, consists of a head, a deputy-head, and from twenty one to thirty-one members and ten heads of administrative departments, namely, (1) civil affairs, (2) public security, (3) finance (4) grain, (5) taxes, (6) industry and commerce, (7) agriculture and forestry, (8) transportation, (9) culture and education, and (10) health; with others to be added when necessary.

632 634 A hsiang council can have a head, a deputy head, three to thirteen members and also four to five department heads.

The People's congress on a county or a hsiang level exercises the same functions as the provincial congress, which is covered by Article 58 of the Constitution: (1) to insure the observance and execution of laws and decrees; (2) to draw up plans for local economic and cultural development and for

632 public works; (3) to examine and approve local
634 budgets and financial reports; (4) to protect public property; (5) to maintain public order; (6) to safeguard the rights of citizens and the equal rights of national minorities.

Article 59 of the Communist Constitution stipulates that the congress elects and is empowered to recall the members of the government on the corresponding level.

The difference between the number of departments in a county and that in a municipality, which is directly under the central government and divided into districts, lies in the fact that the latter can have three more departments -- one for judicial administration, a second for control, and a third for planning; whereas a county and a municipality under provincial control and divided into districts, can have four more departments -- one for producers' co-operatives, one for control of industry and commerce, one for reconstruction, and one for labor.

Besides, the above-mentioned administrative departments there are voluntary organizations, such as the CPC, the peasants' associations, the militia, the New Democratic Youth Corps, the All-China Federation of Democratic Women, an association for the representatives sent to the congresses the inhabitants' association, and many others -- a tota of forty organizations. The number of people who work as staff members in these orgamizations can, in some places, reach an aggregate of 500.